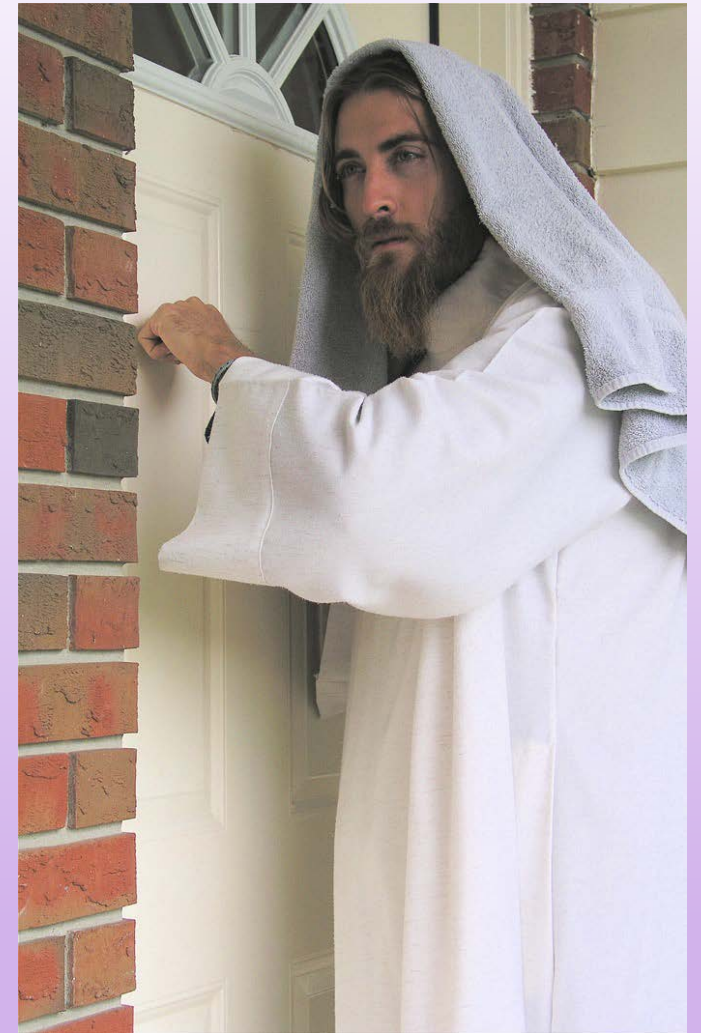


The Church Militant

Revelation 3: 20.

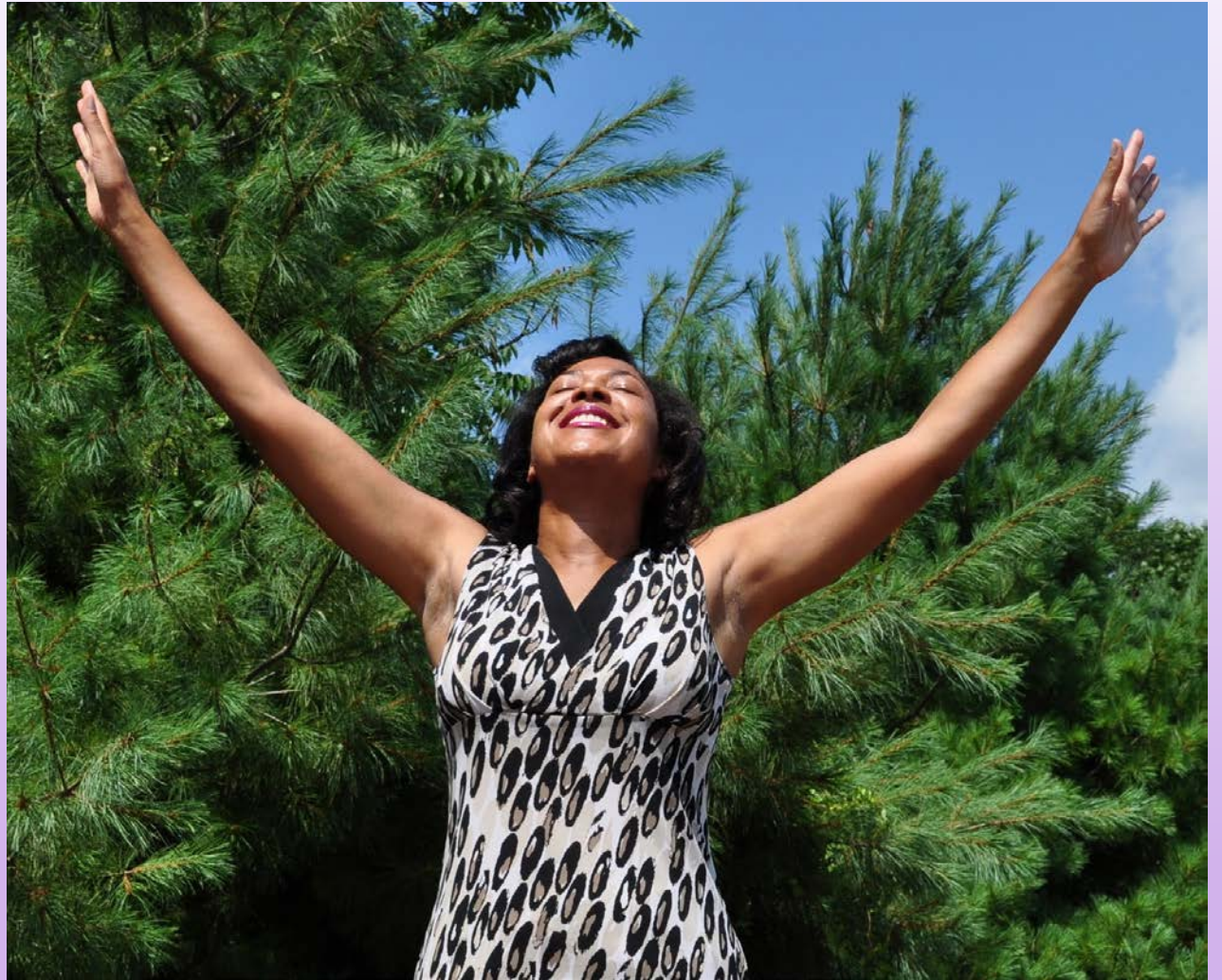


"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me"
Revelation 3: 20.



I. Introduction: INTIMACY WITH GOD

In Jesus Christ we have the privilege of being very close to God. What Adam and Eve lost in the garden of Eden, we obtained it through the ministry of Jesus Christ. Human beings can again live in the presence of God.



“True intimacy – sharing who you are, the very deepest part of you—with Him. God wants to listen to who you are.”
Linda Boone,
Intimate Life
Lessons;
developing the
intimacy with God
you already have.



“We would – or at least we should – take upon ourselves the ultimate task of our poet: to seek the face of God.”
Anthony Esolen

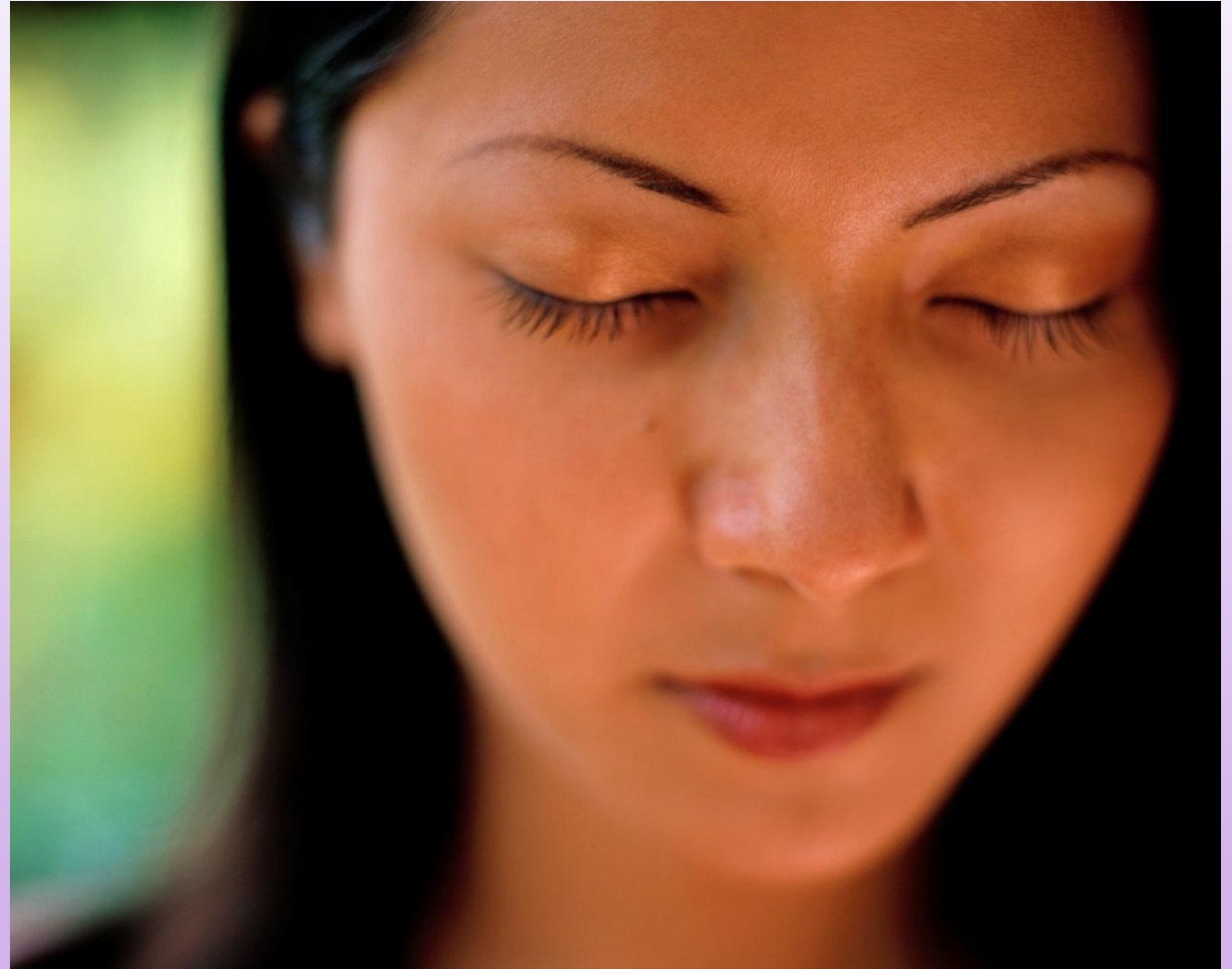


“What makes humility so desirable is the marvelous thing it does to us; it creates in us a capacity for the closest possible intimacy with God.”
Monica Baldwin



“It’s easier to be close to God during prayer time when you’re close to God all the time.”

Jared Brock



“Royalty is my identity.
Servanthood is my
assignment. Intimacy
with God is my life
source.”
Bill Johnson



"The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever."

John Piper



“Our marriage union with husband or wife cannot be more clear, more sure, more matter of fact, than our oneness with Christ and our enjoyment of that oneness.

Joy! joy! joy! He whom we love is ours!”

Charles Spurgeon



II. Context



Christ's message to seven churches confirms that He cares for those who are experiencing challenging situations during the Great Controversy between Good and Evil.



Smyrna and Philadelphia didn't receive a message of critics or a call to repentance. For them, Christ was the First and the Last. Under His leadership their victory was attainable.



Structure of the Book of Revelation

Introduction	7 Churches	7 Seals	7 Trumpets	Central Vision	7 Bowls	Babylon	Jerusalem	Conclusion
1: 1 - 8	1: 9 – 3: 22	4: 1 – 8: 1	8: 2 – 11: 19	12: 1 – 14: 20	15: 1–16: 21	17: 1 – 21: 8	21: 8–22: 5	22: 6–22: 21
Jesus Alpha And Omega “Things which must take place”	Ephesus Smyrna Pergamos Thyatira Sardis Philadelphia Laodicea	White Horse Red Horse Black Horse Pale Horse Souls under the altar Earthquake 144.000 Silence	1/3 of destruction Earth Sea Rivers/springs Moon/stars Sun/smoke Hour/day/month Voices/heaven	Message in 10 parts about the judgment	Total damage Mark/beast Earth Sea Rivers/springs Sun/smoke Throne/beast Euphrates Earthquake	I will show you... Babylon the Great Come out of her “New Earth”	New Jerusalem No sinners No temple “They shall see His face”	Jesus Alpha And Omega “Things which must take place”
“Behold, He is coming with clouds”	The Church is protected	The Church is sealed for the time of the crisis	Warning of the Trumpets Context of Yom Kippur	The Judgment has come	The Result of the judgment	“I will show you the judgment of the harlot... Babylon	“I will show you the bride, Jerusalem	“Surely, I am coming quickly”

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Biblical Reference	2: 1 – 7	2: 8 – 11	2: 12 – 17	2: 18 – 29	3: 1 – 6	3: 7 – 13	3: 14 – 22
Recipient	To the angel of the church	To the angel of the church	To the angel of the church	To the angel of the church	To the angel of the church	To the angel of the church	To the angel of the church
Presentation of Jesus	Holds seven stars Walks in the midst of seven lampstands	the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life	He who has the sharp two-edged sword	Son of God. Has eyes like a flame of fire, His feet like fine brass	He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars	Holy. True. Key of David. Opens and no one shuts, Shuts and no one opens.	Amen. The Faithful and True Witness, The Beginning of the creation of God:
Jesus knows	I know your works, labor, patience.	I know your works, tribulation and poverty. Blasphemy of pretending Jews.	I know your works, I know where you dwell	I know your works, Love. Service. Faith. Patience.	I know your works	I know your works	I know your works
Strengths	Not accepting evil people. Testing pretending apostles. Perseverance. Laboring for my name. Not becoming weary. Deeds of Nicolaitans	You are reach	Holding fast to My name. You did not deny My faith. Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed.	Last works are more than the first.	You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments. They shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.	You have a little strength. Kept My word. Not denied My name. Have kept My command to persevere.	None
Weaknesses	You have left your first love	None	Doctrine of Balaam, Eating idols' sacrifices Sexual Immorality Doctrine of the Nicolaitans	Jezebel teaching and seducing my servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent. She did not.	You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. I have not found your works perfect before God.	None	You are neither cold nor hot. You say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, have need of nothing. You don't know that you are Wretched. Miserable. Poor. Blind. Naked.
Counsels	Remember where you were before. Repent. Do the first works.	Do not fear suffering. Devil will throw some of you in prison, Ten days tribulation.	Repent	I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come.	Be watchful, Strengthen the things which remain, Remember how you have received and heard Hold fast and repent.	Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.	Buy from Me gold refined in the fire, White garments, Anoint your eyes with eye salve. I rebuke and chasten. Be zealous and repent.

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Threats	I will come quickly I will remove your lampstand	None	I will come quickly I will fight with the sword of My mouth.	Jezebel into a sickbed. Great tribulation, unless they repent. I will kill her children All the churches shall know I am searching minds and hearts. Judgment according to your works.	If you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, You will not know what hour I will come upon you	Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie— I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.	I could wish you were cold or hot. Because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.
Promises	---	Be faithful until death, I will give you the crown of life.	---	---	---	I have set an open door. no one can shut it. I also will keep you from the hour of trial.	I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.
Reward to overcomers	I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.	He shall not be hurt by the second death.""	I will give the hidden manna. I will give a white stone, A new name that no one knows	I will give power over the nations He shall rule them with a rod of iron; I will give him the morning star.	He shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.	Pillar in the temple of My God, He shall go out no more. Name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.	I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.
Spirit for those who have ears	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

III. The most important aspect of the Christian experience is not the regular attendance of the worship services. It is not the generosity, compassion, or capacity to forgive. The root of the true spirituality and of the victory is in our attachment to Jesus Christ.



1. Jesus is not a distant God.
He is available.

"Behold, I stand at the door"



“God waits for you to communicate with Him. You have instant, direct access to God. God loves mankind so much, and in a very special sense His children, that He has made Himself available to you at all times.”
Wesley L. Duewel



"Sometimes My blessings come to you in mysterious ways: through pain and trouble. At such times you can know My goodness only through your trust in Me. Understanding will fail you, but trust will keep you close to Me."
Sarah Young

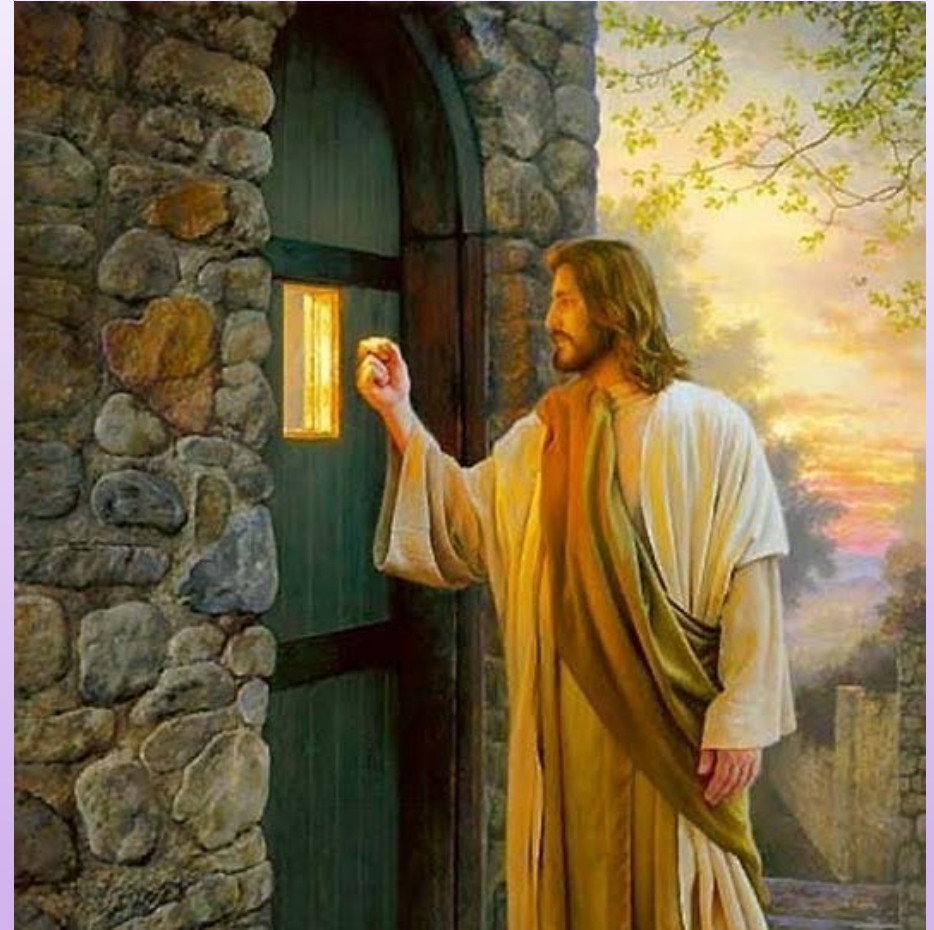


"Jesus Christ is the unique friend. He is the friend that sticks closer than a brother. He is in a class by Himself. No one else can be a friend as He is a friend."
Carl Haak



2. Jesus is always offering the full liberty

“And knock”.



“In the pounding of Martin’s hammer, Jesus came knocking. And his knocking set off a chain-reaction that exploded into the Protestant Reformation, a gospel detonation that is still shaking the world nearly 500 years later.”

Jon Bloom



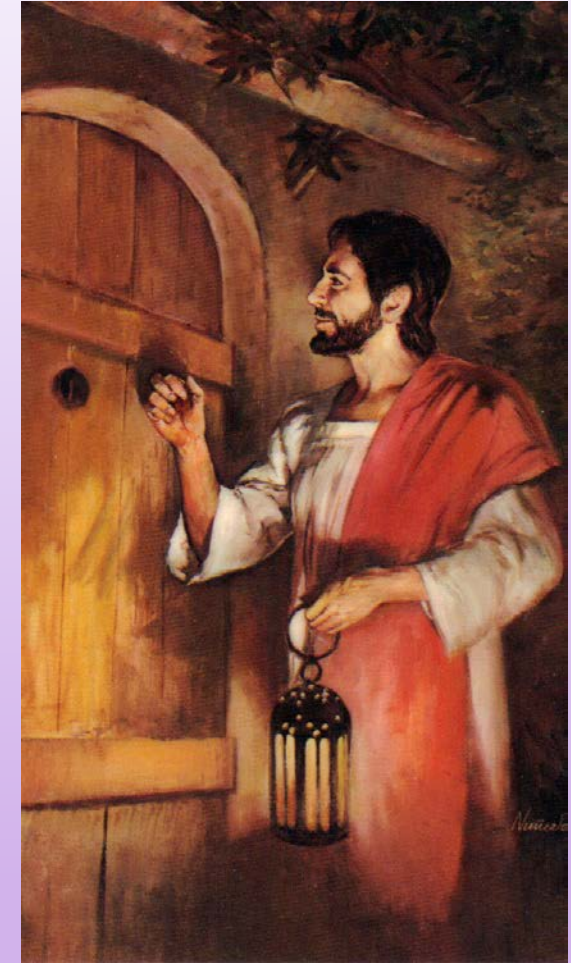
"Years ago a man by the name of Holman Hunt painted this picture on a piece of canvas – Jesus standing there knocking at the door. Someone came by and said, 'Sir, you forgot to put a handle on the outside of the door.' Mr. Hunt said, 'This door only has a handle on the inside and you are the only one who can open it.'"

Niles Lloyd



"The guest knocking at your door is not a prince or princess, not a king or queen, but the great Creator and Judge of the Universe! Suppose he knocked on your door? Ah, but there is no supposing — he *is* knocking. If you only had the eyes to see it and ears to hear it, you would discover that the Supreme Guest is always at your door knocking for admission."

Douglas Beyer

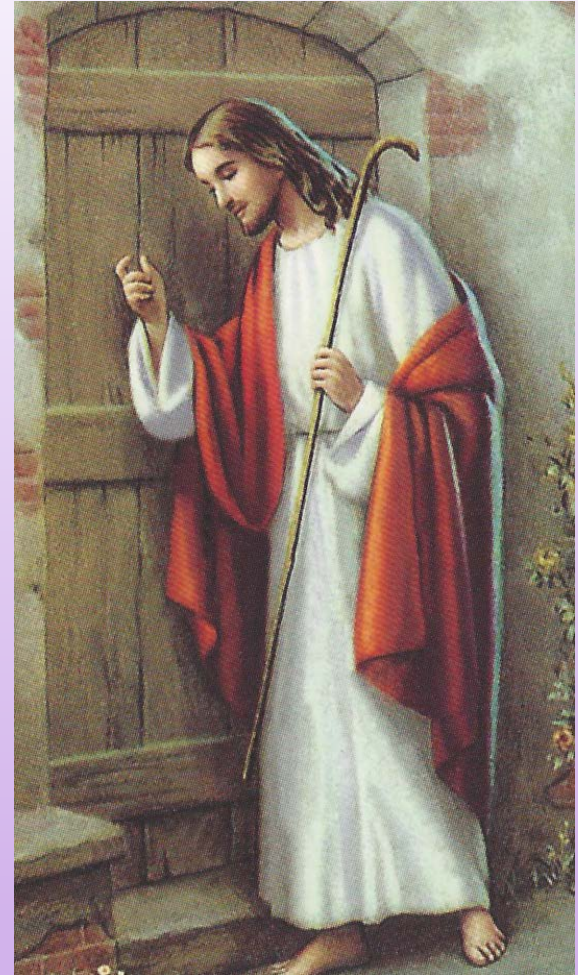


3. The beginning of the
friendship with Jesus Christ
is to hear His voice
“If anyone hears My voice”



"Jesus Christ appeals to the sinner not only with His hand (His providences) knocking, but with His voice (His word read or heard; or rather, His Spirit inwardly applying to man's spirit the lessons to be drawn from His providence and His word). If we refuse to answer to His knocking at our door now, He will refuse to hear our knocking at His door hereafter. In respect to His second coming also, He is even now at the door, and we know not how soon He may knock: therefore we should always be ready to open to Him immediately."

Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary



“When you empty
yourself, God
Almighty rushes in!”
A. W. Tozer,
(1897 – 1963)



"Jesus Christ will not refuse to come in to the soul of the vilest sinner when it is made willing to open to Him."

John Flavel



4. The final
decision for
Jesus to come in
our heart
belongs to us
“And opens the door”

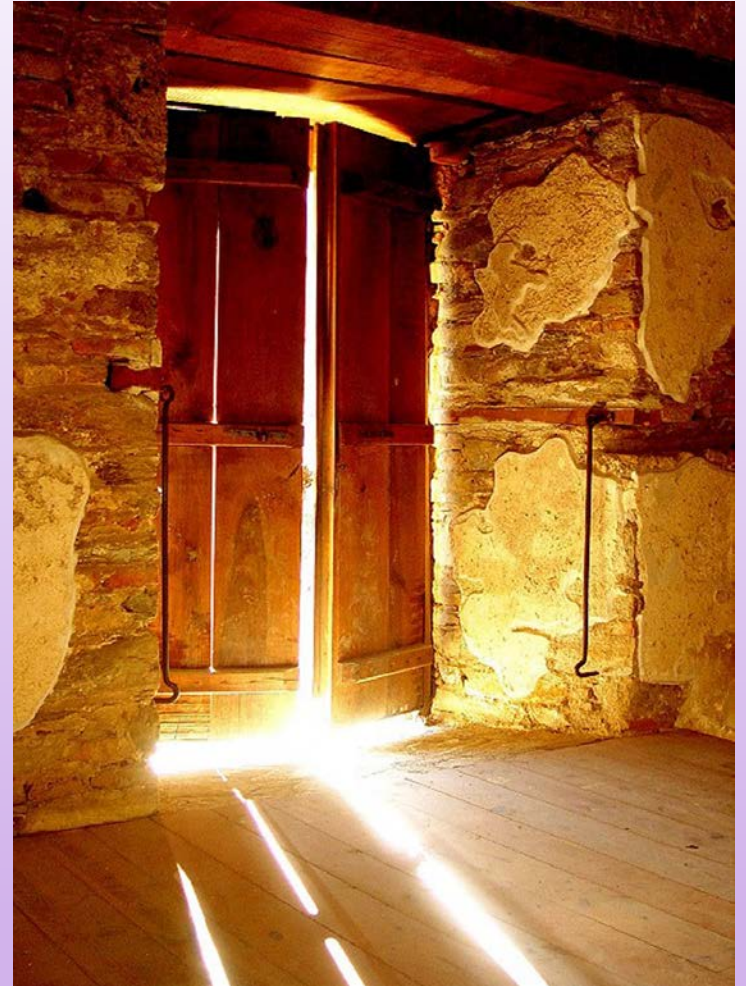


"Our Redeemer sends His messengers to bear a testimony to His people. He says: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." Revelation 3:20. But many refuse to receive Him. The Holy Spirit waits to soften and subdue hearts; but they are not willing to open the door and let the Saviour in, for fear that He will require something of them. And so Jesus of Nazareth passes by. He longs to bestow on them the rich blessings of His grace, but they refuse to accept them."
Ellen G. White, 6T, p. 262.



“According to this passage from Revelation, Jesus Christ is knocking – right now. He is not going to knock "someday." He is not saying He once did knock. No. He is, right now, standing at the door. He is, right now, knocking. Once the door is opened, then it is no longer a barrier. It is then a gateway. It is a point of entry. That which keeps Jesus out then becomes the means by which He enters our lives.”

David A. DePra



“This is our work for this time, to open the door to Jesus, and He will so fill the soul that there will be no room for self and selfishness. O listen, Jesus knocks. Will the answer be, “Come in, thou blessed of the Lord. Why standest thou without?” The imputed and imparted righteousness of Christ is a garment sufficient to cover the nakedness of the soul. I scarcely dare not to give counsel or advice, fearing it may not be interpreted aright. I beseech of you, my brother, whom I respect in the Lord, to make Christ your counsellor. You may go to Him in all your troubles, you may rely upon His wisdom, you may know that He will not upbraid you or refuse your prayer. Every burden or uncertainty you may bring to the Burden-bearer.”
Ellen G. White, Letter 66, 1894 (April 10, 1894) par. 17.

5. Jesus is
longing for an
intimate
relationship
with us

“I will come in to
him and dine with
him, and he with
Me”



"Christ still graciously,
by his word and Spirit,
comes to the door of
the hearts of sinners.
Those who open to
him shall enjoy his
presence. If what he
finds would make but
a poor feast, what he
brings will supply a
rich one. He will give
fresh supplies of
graces and comforts."
Matthew Henri



“Christ’s offer to dine with the repentant church speaks of fellowship, communion, and intimacy. Sharing a meal in ancient times symbolized the union of the people in loving fellowship. Believers will dine with Christ at the marriage supper of the Lamb (19:9), and in the millennial kingdom (Luke 22:16, 29-30). Dine is from DEIPNEO, which refers to the evening meal, the last meal of the day (cf. Luke 7:8; 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25, where the underlying Greek is rendered. The Lord Jesus Christ urged them to repent and have fellowship with Him before the night of judgment fell and it was too late forever.”

John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Revelation (Moody, 1999), p. 140.

“He is standing at the door of our hearts knocking. He wants to be let in so He can have a deep, intimate and personal relationship with us.”
Duke Taber



V. Conclusion



"The True Witness says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock." Revelation 3:20. Every warning, reproof, and entreaty in the word of God or through His messengers is a knock at the door of the heart. It is the voice of Jesus asking for entrance. With every knock unheeded, the disposition to open becomes weaker. The impressions of the Holy Spirit if disregarded today, will not be as strong tomorrow. The heart becomes less impressible, and lapses into a perilous unconsciousness of the shortness of life, and of the great eternity beyond. Our condemnation in the judgment will not result from the fact that we have been in error, but from the fact that we have neglected heaven-sent opportunities for learning what is truth."

Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 489.

"When the devil comes
knocking on your door simply
say "Jesus, it's for you."
Robin Jones Gunn, Sunsets



"Jesus wants to have a personal relationship with you. The people of the world need to see us as believers in Christ. You are the only Jesus that the people in your world will ever see."

Pastor Kenneth W. Rucker



The Church Militant

Revelation 3: 20.

